

The Cheerful Letter

EVERY PLACE A CHURCH; EVERY DAY THE LORD'S DAY; ALL EVENTS BLESSINGS; ALL JOY
THANKSGIVING; AND ALL NATURE AND LIFE FULL OF GOD.—*James Freeman Clarke.*

VOL. XXX.

DECEMBER, 1921

No. 7

THE CHEERFUL LETTER.

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CONTENTS OF NO. 7.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE	43
THE CHRISTMAS HOPE	43
MAN'S STEWARDSHIP ON THIS EARTH (concluded)	44
THE STILL HOUR	44
THE BOOK AND MAGAZINE CLUB	44
LILLIAN FREEMAN CLARKE	47
THE MOTHERS' COUNCIL:— DO NOT TEACH FEAR	47
CHILDREN'S CLASSICS:— THE GIRL WITH THE LOYAL HEART	48
THE AMUSEMENT COLUMN	49
IMPORTANT NOTICES	50

THE PRINCE OF PEACE.*

"What means this glory round our feet,"
The magi mused,—*"more bright than
morn?"*

And voices chanted clear and sweet,
"To-day the Prince of Peace is born."

"What means that star," the shepherds
said,
*"That brightens through the rocky
glen?"*

And angels answering overhead
Sang, *"Peace on earth, good-will to
men."*

All round about our feet shall shine
A light like that the Wise Men saw,
If we our willing hearts incline
To that sweet Life which is the Law.

* This hymn was written by the famous poet
for a Christmas service at the Church of the
Disciples in Boston, where the Rev. James
Freeman Clarke was the minister and Miss
Lillian Freeman Clarke was first a Sunday-
school pupil, afterwards a teacher.

So shall we learn to understand
The simple faith of shepherds then,
And kindly clasping hand in hand
Sing, *"Peace on earth, good-will to men."*

For they who to their childhood cling,
And keep their natures fresh as morn,
Once more shall hear the angels sing,
"To-day the Prince of Peace is born."

—*James Russell Lowell.*

THE CHRISTMAS HOPE.

Our great Hope lies here: there are in
every land beneath the sky those who are
in quest of the ideal God. And however
far away such may be, there will appear
some star to guide them until it rests over
the place of God's ideal incarnate. God
is ever hanging out His guiding stars to
attract the eye of men. Groping as we
are in so much darkness and trying to
lay hold of something, let us come with
gifts of our best, even as they of old
brought their gold and frankincense; let
us consecrate ourselves.

What has the Christmas story for the
great mass of the unlearned and poorly
circumstanced? "And there were shep-
herds in the same country abiding in the
field, and keeping watch over their flock
by night. And an angel of the Lord stood
by them and the glory of the Lord shone
round about them." And suddenly, before
these humblest of men, who could not
write their names, the heavens opened and
poured forth the choirs of God singing the
hymn of praise and peace. They too had
been given to meditation and conversation
upon the things of God, in and behind the
stars beneath which they kept watch.
How do we know? Because the rare and
splendid manifestation of God can come
only to souls that have prepared them-
selves for it. So these men too found
their way, as did the wise men, to the
place of the ideal. Thus they met in the
achievement of the quest, the only way
in which men ever can meet in true and
lasting brotherhood.—*H. G. Richardson.*

MAN'S STEWARDSHIP ON THIS
EARTH.*(Concluded from the November number.)*

Now, as I said in the beginning, it is very encouraging to find how many men and women are waking up to be of the mind to work and to see how much God is expecting them to do for Him, and are beginning to create a healthy, hopeful, and most beneficent religion in their endeavors to carry on God's work, finding in it, amidst great diversities of opinion, a bond of union and an occasion for charity; more than a duty, yes, a privilege, as when one is summoned from a lowly place and work to a high office and an honorable fellowship, and called up higher because he can do better work. The number is and will be steadily increasing of those who will be ashamed merely to be lookers-on or selfish speculators and plotters in a world where so many things are going wrong; and there will be many who, if they have said, "The vineyard isn't mine, and let Him to whom it belongs work in it," will come to be of a wiser and nobler mind, as they take their places by the side of the unseen and the Almighty God, and say in all lowliness and in all gladness, with Jesus, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work."

I do not see how the pressing moral needs of modern society can be met in any good degree unless they are in some sort everybody's business,—not left to a few leaders and professed philanthropists, a few ministers and Sunday-school teachers, but a part of the kingship and priesthood of every earnest Christian and every true-hearted man and woman.—*Rufus Ellis.*

THE STILL HOUR.

Never be dispirited; never say, "It is too late"; never lose heart under opposition. The fitting course for a man is to do what is good for the moment, without vainly forecasting the future,—to do the present duty and leave the result to God.—*A. P. Stanley.*

What is it to be a gentleman? It is to be honest, to be gentle, to be generous, to be brave, to be wise; and, possessing these qualities, to exercise them in the most graceful outward manner.—*W. M. Thackeray.*

THE BOOK AND MAGAZINE CLUB.

Send all offers and requests for this department to Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 25 Fairmount Way, Quincy, Mass., Tel. Quincy 1140.

Please remember, when you see a request for a book in the Book Club, to write a card to Mrs. Nichols, asking "Shall I send such a book to such a person?" before sending it, else the person who requests it may receive several copies. When any one writes directly to you, asking for a book offered by you, send a card to Mrs. Nichols, saying that you have sent it. When you receive more requests than you can meet, send these to the Book Club to be printed here.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Mrs. Emma M. Backus is now at Dade City, Florida.

OFFERS.

The Cambridge Branch offers the following books. Address Mrs. Henry R. Bowser, 36 Lancaster Street, Cambridge, 40, Mass. "The Recollections of a Naval Officer, 1841-1865," Capt. William H. Parker; "Speech on Conciliation with America," Edmund Burke; "The Life of Emanuel Swedenborg," Wilkinson; Taine's "English Literature," translated by H. Van Laun; "Recollections of President Lincoln and His Administration," Chittenden; "The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám"; "English Home Life," Robert Laird Collier; "Henry Esmond," Thackeray; Homer's "Iliad," translated by Cowper, edited by Southey; "A Study in Scarlet," Conan Doyle; Detective Stories; "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Harriet Beecher Stowe; "The Brethren," Rider Haggard; "The Tale," Goethe, translated by Thomas Carlyle; "Faust," Goethe (in English); "Hereward the Last of the English," Charles Kingsley.

REQUESTS.

1. As winter is closing in on us now I greatly desire to be remembered in any way by the many friends when I need their help most. I should appreciate some good reading and pictures for my four boys aged four to twelve. Would be glad to correspond with some of the Cheerful Letter friends. Mrs. S. B. Hamner, Knolls, Amherst County, Virginia.

2. I wish to thank my Cheerful Letter friends for everything that has been sent me; and I hope they will continue to remember me with magazines, cards, and any reading matter. Mrs. R. L. Porter, Meigs, Georgia, R. F. D.

3. I have moved from Franklin County down in the meadows near Halifax line between Pittsylvania County and Halifax, Virginia, entirely among strangers, and a long ways from church and Sunday-school. I am deprived of much of this world's goods, as we are poor people and have all we can barely do to live. Can't buy reading, as everything is high, and crops were cut to about half this time, and money scarce. It made it very hard for us; but still I trust in our dear Saviour, for his will must be done. I try to live a Christian, as that is what it takes to meet Jesus. I seldom get out anywhere, as my health is noway good and I have six little ones to care for. The three oldest are boys, ages ranging sixteen, thirteen, ten; girls eight, four and a half, and five months old; so you dear people see my hands are full, like all mothers who have to work hard. Mrs. Leonard Blankenship, Gretna, Virginia, Route 2.

4. I want to thank every one of my dear Cheerful Letter friends for every kindness shown me. If I didn't write you a personal letter it was because you didn't give me your address. We are at the closing of the very dryest summer I ever saw; and the long, cold mountain winter will soon be here. I hope friends will remember me and my children this winter and on Christmas. If any one has a book they have finished reading and don't care to read again, I will be very glad to get it, or *Needlecraft* or *Modern Priscilla*, as I do crochet work to sell when I can find any one who wishes to buy. May God bless the good works of the dear old *Cheerful Letter*, which has brought cheer to so many, and especially myself who have been an invalid for most eighteen years, with no hope of ever being well again in this life; but I am looking forward to the Great Beyond where sickness and sorrow, want or pain never come. Mrs. Beulah Moore, Campbell, North Carolina, Box 76, R. 1.

5. I wish to thank the Cheerful Letter friends for their kindness in the past, and certainly do thank the friend that sends me the paper. It is a comfort to me. I kindly ask to be remembered in the future. My husband and I are both old and afflicted and poor in this world's goods and not able to buy reading matter. I will be very grateful and thankful for any kind of patchwork pieces, bits of thread and

lace. I will pass along all reading matter sent me to others after reading it myself. Mrs. Jennie Agee, Spencer, Virginia, Route 1, Box 35.

6. The *Cheerful Letter* readers will please accept thanks for literature sent me last year. I am now teaching at Grafton, Virginia, and shall appreciate some good books and other literature suitable for high-school children. Also Moore's "History of the American Revolution," Fiske's "Critical Period of American History," and Fiske's "History of the American Revolution," a good History of New York City or New York State, "Life and Works of John Adams," Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel "The Pearl of Orr's Island," "The Social Life of the Early Republic," or any book on that subject; any of Gertrude Atherton's works, and some of the present-day fiction. Hope I do not ask for too much. Miss Sue Hardie, Grafton, Virginia.

7. Mr. W. R. Chapman, Beulahville, Virginia, is taking a course in the University, which covers United States History, the teaching of History, and Modern History and Education. He asks for any books along these lines.

8. Mrs. E. D. Tyson, Wadesboro, North Carolina, Route 2, Box 52, writes: I am a married woman twenty-nine years old and have four little boys and one little girl. I would be glad to get some good reading for myself and husband. My health is not good and I get very lonely sometimes. Would especially be glad of little story and picture books for the children. We have to work hard for a living, and crops were cut off by the dry weather and boll weevil. I will be glad of some scraps for patchwork and quilts.

9. Miss Ruth Martz, 929 West Gordon Street, North Topeka, Kansas, a crippled girl of fifteen with a very bright mind, will be so glad of suitable reading.

10. Mrs. Lula Wofford, Athens, Texas, R. D. 2, Box 34, feels we have forgotten her, and longs for magazines or papers. Her husband is crippled and hardly able to work.

11. I would be glad to get some books to read, especially "Edith's Ministry," and would like *The Cheerful Letter*. I have

four little children aged from seven to two years and would like picture books and cards for them. Mrs. George L. Pendleton, Elamsville, Virginia.

12. Mrs. W. J. Howard, Decatur, Tennessee, R. 4, a young married woman with one little boy two years old, living in a lonely district, will be glad of reading, pictures, and quilt scraps.

13. I wish to thank all my Cheerful Letter friends for sending me reading matter in the past. I haven't received much lately and would be glad if I could receive some—any kind. Miss Audie Gibson, Malakoff, Texas, R. D. 2, Box 131.

14. Mrs. C. M. Kingsley, Copeland, Arkansas, living forty-five miles from the nearest railroad, says, "Please send me books or magazines."

15. Mrs. Josie Swanson, Coker Creek, Tennessee, living twelve miles from town, has four children, twelve, eight, six, and four, and will be very thankful for reading.

16. Mrs. F. W. Keene, 501 Cleveland Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, will be much pleased to receive either *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Home Companion*, *Pictorial Review*, or *Delineator*.

17. Benjamin F. Capps, Hendersonville, North Carolina, will appreciate any help on music or voice culture; also would like copies of *The Musician* or *Étude*.

18. Mr. Ross Bryan, Whitakers, North Carolina, will be grateful for a Webster's Dictionary for his school.

19. Mrs. Joe Dodd, Sandidges, Virginia, Route 2, wishes to express her grateful appreciation to all who have sent her things in the past, and hopes still to be remembered. She would like to receive some pieces for patchwork.

20. Mrs. M. Bates, 1409 Des Moines Street, Des Moines, Iowa, an invalid, unable to get out, and living alone, longs for a good story. She will greatly appreciate a novel.

21. I want to thank all the ladies for the nice quilt pieces and reading sent me

this summer. I would like to be remembered at Christmas with anything to make the kiddies happy; anything sent during the cold, long winter will be much appreciated. Mrs. G. Lee Roberson, Elamsville, Virginia, Box 22.

22. I am writing to *The Cheerful Letter* for the first time. We are poor people, and my husband is a cripple and blind. We have one little girl, three years old. Her name is Mary. I am very lonely and would appreciate anything to cheer us along through the winter. I would like some scraps for a quilt, and reading. For reference write Rev. J. B. Roberson, Dodson, Virginia. Mrs. Alma Lester, Woolwine, Virginia.

23. A correspondent in the West Indies asks, "Will some one having a copy of Mark Twain's 'Innocents Abroad' send it to Felix Padillo, Box 38, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands?"

24. Miss Dora Bryant, Elamsville, Virginia, asks for reading for her sister, aged eleven, and brother, seven.

25. India Pendleton, Elamsville, Virginia, asks for reading, especially "Robinson Crusoe."

26. I get so lonesome here in the meadows, as people are not thickly settled, and the water stays on the ground so, people can't travel much in winter. I would be so thankful for reading of any kind for myself and children; pictures, post-cards, second-hand school-books,—any kind of reading any one has to pass on. I would like Grimms' Fairy Tales, or a good story-book for the family. My two little girls would like bits of ribbon and pieces to make doll-dresses. Drawing-books or anything to help pass away the time with the little ones will be appreciated. Mrs. Elizabeth Blankenship, Gretana, Virginia, Route 2.

27. I wish to say through *The Cheerful Letter* that I will appreciate magazines and any good literature; also desire pieces for quilts of any description, cotton, silk, or wool. I hope to be remembered for Christmas, also. May God continue to bless and make you all a blessing. Miss Alberta Richardson, Wadesboro, North Carolina, R. 1, Box 81.

28. I have six children, two girls and four boys. I am not able to get books for them to go to school. I would be glad if some of the friends would send me some. My oldest girl is thirteen and is in the sixth grade, and the other girl is ten and in the second grade. My boy is seven years old and in the first grade. I will be glad of anything that any of the friends will give me. Quilt pieces will be appreciated. Mrs. Florence M. Little, Ansonville, North Carolina, Box 263.

LILIAN FREEMAN CLARKE.

Ever since there was a *Cheerful Letter* at all (and that means almost thirty years), one name has been familiar to its readers. Other names have changed and been replaced, but the name of Miss Clarke has been a part of every issue of this publication. The idea of the paper was hers, to begin with, though the work of the *Cheerful Letter* Exchange has gradually attracted more and more women of earnest devotion, until now these form a little army enlisted for friendly service wherever friendship can serve.

Now Miss Clarke's name has to be withdrawn from the list of present workers in this world, although those of us who had the privilege of knowing her well feel that she must still be thinking and caring about an interest that had so long been so dear to her heart. She died at her home in Boston, November fourth, in her eightieth year.

Very few of the multitudes who knew something of her many helpful activities had any idea that these last seven years she was herself an invalid. She steadily grew more and more completely helpless as to the body, although her mind kept to the last its wonderful strength and clearness. During the weary years when she could not even turn her own head upon the pillow, she never complained of hardship. She kept right on choosing material for successive issues of the paper, planning special offers of books, and directing the distribution of books and magazines in response to requests. With some *Cheerful Letter* friends she had kept up personal correspondence for years without once mentioning the tremendous difficulties under which she had to labor.

Miss Clarke's editorship of *The Cheerful Letter* was only one of several lines

of work in which she found joyful satisfaction. Her eighty years had been crowded very full of service. She herself would have liked to give all the credit of her own good works to her father, the Rev. James Freeman Clarke, whose beautiful life had been her own inspiration. Certain words of his she chose for the motto of this paper, and they have always stood at the head of its first page. She had the good fortune to be born among the most favorable conditions, having a happy, sheltered girlhood, with every educational advantage that books and travel and noble friends could give. This good fortune she gratefully accepted as a trust from God, feeling it a joy to expend herself and her possessions for the help of those whose lot was less happy. While still a young woman she became deeply interested in making life more safe and wholesome, bright and promising for young mothers and little babies whose prospects were very dark; for nearly forty long years, in her native city of Boston, she gave generously and continually for their aid,—not only money, which would have been simple and comparatively easy, but also the strength of her own body, the energy of her trained mind, and the warmth of her ardent sympathy. She went on errands of wisely thoughtful kindness, beyond all counting-up.

She had a special tenderness for little children and for dumb animals, and was always to be depended upon for the practical support of undertakings for their protection.

Miss Clarke's friends and correspondents are scattered all over the world. It is not only in the United States that she will be missed. Our soldier-boys still overseas, French little folks orphaned by the Great War, teachers and students in far-away lands of the Orient will miss her too.

She was a good woman who loved God with all her heart, and her neighbor as herself. She tried to use all the many good things that life had brought to her, to help make the Kingdom come on earth.

THE MOTHERS' COUNCIL.

DO NOT TEACH FEAR.

Life is largely ruled by fear, and a change is desirable. As a lecturer has recently pointed out, the education given by most parents to their children instills fears. The children are taught to be

afraid of winter, of war, of death, of hard times, of disease, of examinations. Perhaps that is one of the reasons that children so seldom find the conversation of their elders uplifting. It is full of don'ts, buts, and nots.

Amid such a shower of warnings some of the pessimism is bound to stick, even when the youngster resolutely closes his ears. The result is a negatively-minded race, which must go about its day's work partially paralyzed with dread of what is to come.

No one can deny that some things which children are taught to fear are likely to happen. But a steady diet of fears is not nourishing. Real accomplishments are made by a positive attitude.

Robert Louis Stevenson, resolute and brave in the face of wasting illness and grinding poverty, is one of the shining examples to follow. Every line he wrote is seasoned with never-failing courage.—*The Boston Globe*.

CHILDREN'S CLASSICS.

THE GIRL WITH THE LOYAL HEART.

This is a story that has been told and read for hundreds, even thousands, of years.*

There was once a Hebrew woman named Naomi, who lived in a pagan land over beyond the mountains, in a region east of the great Mediterranean Sea. Her husband had moved there to earn their living, at a time when the crops failed in their own Judea. Though the family lived among neighbors who knew little and cared less about God, Naomi's own household had kept to the worship of the one true God, as their ancestors understood Him. But Naomi's husband died, and her two grown-up sons died also. Both sons had married wives from pagan families, and Naomi, according to the custom of the country, had to plan for their future as well as for her own.

Naomi faced the prospect of a poverty-stricken old age. She advised the two girls to return to their own parents, where they could be comfortably cared for. Both of them grieved at the idea of the parting, but one decided it was the only prudent thing to do. The other, Ruth, could not bear the thought of such a farewell.

She said to Naomi: "Entreat me not to leave thee! Whither thou goest I will go and where thou lodgest I will lodge; thy

people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

So, although it did seem as if Ruth were rashly giving up all possibility of a comfortable future, she did stand by Naomi; the two managed somehow to make the long and difficult journey from the land of Moab, where they had lived together, to a little Hebrew town called Bethlehem,—a place up among the hills, only a day's journey from the Mediterranean shore. Naomi had lived near there when she herself was young.

Most of the Bethlehem neighbors were plain working-people who could not do much to help their old acquaintance and her foreign daughter-in-law. There was one distant relative of Naomi's dead husband, who was a rich man, owning grain-fields outside the town, and employing many hands at harvest-time. Ruth knew that, according to the kindly custom of the Hebrew nation, a stranger like herself had a right to follow after the workers and glean (that is, gather up) any grain which they overlooked or dropped by accident; so she went out one day to the fields, to collect material for the bread off which they made their plain, bare meals.

Boaz—that was the name of the land-owner—came out from his town house to see how the harvesting progressed. "The Lord be with you" was his courteous greeting to the workers; and they, according to the rules of good manners in those days, responded, "The Lord bless thee!" Boaz noticed the young stranger, keeping shyly at a distance from the others, and asked the reapers who she was. When they had told him what they knew about her history, he spoke to her kindly, telling her to stay close to the girl workers in his own field; not to be afraid, but to glean freely all she could find. Ruth bowed low before him in gratitude, and said, "Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?"

Boaz answered: "It hath fully been showed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother-in-law since the death of thine husband; and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people that thou knewest not heretofore. The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee by the Lord God of Israel under whose wings thou art come to trust." And he privately told his men

* See the Book of Ruth in our Bible.

to drop some grain here and there on purpose for her, so that she might be sure to carry a plenty back to Naomi.

Then, after the harvest was over, Boaz took young Ruth to be his wife, and Naomi lived with them, honored and loved.

When, another year, a little child was born to Ruth and Boaz, nobody could have been happier than Naomi. Her friends came to rejoice with her; and they said: "Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. He shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life and a nourisher of thine old age; for thy daughter-in-law which loveth thee is better than seven sons."

But this happiness for one family of good people was not the whole of what came to pass because of Ruth's loyal affection for the older woman and for that woman's religion. For in the course of time Ruth's baby son, Obed, grew up and had a son of his own; that son married; by and by there was a grandson. And that grandson, as years went on, became one of the greatest of all great men in Hebrew history. He began as a shepherd-boy, taking care of the sheep of his father in a pasture outside Bethlehem; he became the greatest king of the Hebrew nation,—King David. Every one of us to-day knows some of the hymns written by King David. It was the great-grandson of Ruth, the girl with the loyal heart, who wrote *The heavens declare the glory of God and The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

THE AMUSEMENT COLUMN.

[Address everything relating to the Amusement Column to Mr. Henry A. Jenks, 1925 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge 40, Mass. Contributors are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Write name and address plainly (not necessarily for publication) and send the answers to the puzzles on a separate slip of paper.]

I.

BIOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.

My whole is a quotation from Horace (Cowper's translation, Book II., Ode 10), containing 81 letters.

1. My 47, 4, 11, 19, 58, 22, "That mighty orb of song."

2. My 3, 70, 12, 71, 1, 30, 78, 60, 23, 52, "The last great Englishman."

3. My 50, 77, 43, 67, 7, "The father was of Tuscan song."

4. My 76, 32, 10, 16, 80, 50, 66, 81, "Nature formed but one such man."

5. My 74, 42, 17, 6, 31, 28, Whom Cimbue found among the sheep.

6. My 51, 64, 62, 18, 76, "Last of the Puritan Tribunes, and the best."

7. My 20, 79, 63, 49, 34, 72, 53, 75, 39, "Laureate of the gentle craft."

8. My 61, 29, 2, 33, 69, "The hero born by whom the undaunted Tyrolese were led."

9. My 35, 54, 12, 9, 36, 24, 15, 28, 59, 45, 48, "Set free the negro and is worth a million fighters."

10. My 26, 46, 44, 56, "The Shepherd-poet."

11. My 5, 66, 40, 13, 71, 37, 23, 55, "Monarchs bowed the trembling limb and thanked him for a throne."

12. My 9, 8, 68, 25, 73, 39, "Rome's sublimest homicide."

13. My 27, 14, 80, 57, 38, "Expires a driver and a show."

14. My 65, 21, 41, 46, "Perished by the justest doom which ever the destroyer yet destroyed."

—Good Housekeeping.

II.

HALF SQUARE.

The home of intellect.

Benefits crops.

Always around us.

A preposition.

A letter.

Answers to puzzles in the November number.

I. FALL HUNTING: Guns: Winchester, Remington, Marlin, Stevens, Ithaca. Game: Lion, tiger, rhinoceros, gorilla, camel.

II. CHARACTERISTIC INITIALS: 1. William Cowper. 2. L. H. Sigourney. 3. P. B. Shelley. 4. F. Bret Harte. 5. Thomas Chatterton.

The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask,—
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.

THE CHEERFUL LETTER EXCHANGE.

Chairman of the Cheerful Letter Exchange,
Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 25 Fairmount Way,
Quincy, Mass.

Secretary of the Cheerful Letter Exchange,
Mrs. Francis Hastings, Kendal Green, Mass.

Editor of The Cheerful Letter, to be
appointed.

Book Club Secretary, Mrs. W. B. Nichols,
25 Fairmount Way, Quincy, Mass.

Subscriptions to this paper (50 cents per
year) should be sent to The Cheerful Letter
Exchange, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.
Checks or postal orders should be payable to
The Cheerful Letter Exchange.

OBJECTS.

1. To cheer and comfort the lonely and
discouraged—not only invalids, but all
who need cheer and comfort—by the inter-
change of letters and by gifts of books
and periodicals.

2. To supply in some measure to young
people in remote places the lack of schools,
by gifts of school-books, letters, and, for
those who desire it, correspondence classes
on history, the natural sciences, and other
interesting branches of study. If any de-
sire to join such classes, they may send
their names to our secretary.

3. Also to supply, to some extent, the
lack of a church. One good sermon or
similar article is printed in each number
of the paper. These sermons are never
doctrinal, but practical, and intended to
cheer and comfort the sorrowful and aid
in giving a vital religion without regard
to sect or creed.

Any minister (of any sect) who receives
this paper is cordially invited to distribute
the copies of *The Cheerful Letter* received
among lonely members of his parish, shut-
ins or invalids of whom he may know. He
is also invited to write to our head-
quarters (see address on this page) and
give names and addresses of those who
may be cheered and helped by becoming
our correspondents.

No *theology* is disseminated in our
paper. All the religious matter is in-
tended merely to strengthen, cheer, and
comfort those in need of such practical
help.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

To fill the unusual demand for copies
of *The Cheerful Letter*, it will be greatly
appreciated by the Committee if friends
will do personal canvassing during the
year and bring in a list of new subscrip-
tions. Many of our correspondents feel
that they can no longer afford to subscribe,
but deplore the loss of the paper.

OFFERS.

Givers of books are reminded that only
books of instructive or wholesome nature
should be offered in the Book Club. Clas-
sics, educational works, and standard nov-
els are always acceptable.

REQUESTS.

THE ATTENTION OF READERS IS CALLED TO
THE FOLLOWING NOTICE:—

It is a rule of the Cheerful Letter Ex-
change that no one may ask for money,
clothing, or other articles, except books
and magazines.

The name of any person who fails to
obey this rule will be dropped from our
list. Any worker receiving such a request
should send the letter at once to head-
quarters.

CIRCULATING LIBRARIES.

The Cheerful Letter Exchange offers to
start a circulating library in any small
community needing one, providing proper
location and care can be furnished and
satisfactory references supplied. Apply
to Mrs. H. A. Stevens, 76 Edgemere Road,
Quincy, Mass.

STUDIES AT HOME.

The Home Study Committee of the
Cheerful Letter Exchange is planning for
more efficient work.

Our aim is to help in subjects in which
one is deficient; to help one fit himself
for a higher grade of work.

We have books used in the schools here,
which can be used for supplementary
work in the schoolroom or in the home.

Make all applications for this depart-
ment to Mrs. George G. Saville, 30 Wood-
ward Avenue, Quincy, Mass.

MUSIC.

The music sent out by this department
has in the past given much pleasure; and,
now that there is more and more interest
in "community singing" the calls for help
may naturally be expected to be greater.

Offers and requests should be sent to
Mrs. Thomas Lacey, 35 East 30th Street,
New York City, or to All Souls Church,
Fourth Avenue and 20th Street, New York
City.